

DFS QUARTERLY

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Advanced Fire Investigation Course

Members of the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section and the DFS staff have been hard at work planning and executing an *Advanced Fire Investigation Course*. This course is an intensive 40-hour course that provides investigators with hands-on training. The course has produced a great partnership between the Massachusetts State Police Academy and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Two of the five days were spent at the State Police Academy in New Braintree where students conducted fire scene examinations and live witness inter-

views. Three days were spent at the Firefighting Academy where investigators participated in depositions, grand jury testimony, and criminal and civil trials. Marshal Coan and Lt. Fay were on hand for the graduation of the 40 students. The pilot course was a huge success thanks to the hard work and dedication of several people from both the State Police and the Firefighting Academy including Lt. Martin E. Fay, Sgt. Robert O'Keefe, Tpr. Paul T. Zipper, Everett Pierce, Jack Peltier, Sue Peltier, and Ed Walker. ♦

Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems

NFPA 25 – 1995 Edition

Automatic sprinkler systems work very effectively when properly designed, installed and maintained. This article will discuss issues on the inspection, testing and maintenance once the system is installed. According to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR), 527 CMR 1.06 (2) (Maintenance), the owner, tenant or lessee of every building or structure shall be

responsible for the care and maintenance of all fire protection systems, including equipment and devices, to insure the safety and welfare of the occupants. What does this mean when applied to automatic sprinkler systems? In 527 CMR 49, the BFPR references the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 25 – 1995 edition. There are different types of water-based fire protection systems and each has different requirements for type and frequency of inspection, testing and maintenance. For a detailed explanation of all inspection, testing and maintenance – please see NFPA 25, 1995 edition.

Automatic Sprinklers

Automatic sprinkler systems require inspection, testing and maintenance to insure that they operate effectively and safely once installed. Companies that perform inspection, testing and maintenance service, in accordance with NFPA 25, will generally complete a multiple page report and



From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

Recruit Double Session Starts March 13

Now that the budget has been passed, the Mass. Firefighting Academy (MFA) is busily planning to implement the double session of recruit training. This is a creative solution developed by the MFA staff to shorten the current two year waiting list for new recruit training. March 13, 2000 will be the start of the first double recruit sessions. The new class will start sharing the facility with one that is in week five of the eleven week course. One class will run from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the second class will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This will double the number of recruits in training at any one time at the Stow facility. The major benefit to the fire service will be a dramatic reduction in the turn around time from when a new firefighter is hired to the date he or she enters the Mass. Firefighting Academy for the recruit training will be shortened. Increasing the overall total amount of available recruit training, while maintaining the highest level of quality, will help fire department managers plan for staffing new positions and filling vacancies. Training will be starting every five to six weeks instead of every ten weeks.

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1998 MFIRS Annual Report Available

The 1998 Annual Report of the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System is available. It has been sent each fire chief. If you need an additional copy, please contact the fire data staff at (978) 567-3382.

- Although fire deaths were at a record low, smoking remained the number one cause of fire deaths and fatal fires.
- Cooking was the leading cause of fires in the home and the leading cause of fire injuries.

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From the Fire Marshal

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Critical Incident Stress Initiative Funded

The budget also provided funding to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to support the critical incident stress management teams. We know that firefighters all too often stoically suppress their human reactions to tragic situations. Unfortunately, those feelings are not properly dealt with they can have adverse consequences on physical, mental and family health. Symptoms of improperly managed stress can be alcohol and other substance abuse, or other addictive behaviors, divorce, family violence, and heart disease. Effectively managing stress will lead to healthier firefighters and better service to the public.

10th Annual Firefighter of the Year: December 7, 1999

As this goes to press, the Department of Fire Services is preparing for the tenth annual Firefighter of the Year Award at historic Faneuil Hall. Governor Paul Cellucci and Public Safety Secretary Jane Perlov will recognize acts of courage and bravery by presenting individuals and teams of firefighters with medals of honor, medals of valor, citations and a community service award. A special fire marshal's award will be given to Dr. Hayden A. Duggan for his assistance in developing the statewide critical incident stress management system and to Dr. John A. Greene for his work serving the firefighters in metropolitan Boston, providing stress management and counselling services. ♦

Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program

The Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program will be held at the MFA in Stow on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 27, May 4, 11, and 18, 2000. This program is taught by instructors from the University of Massachusetts, Donahue Institute for Governmental Services. It is designed to provide instruction on the non-fire suppression and prevention aspects of the NFPA standard 1021 for the Fire Officer II, III, IV, V, and VI levels. Emphasis is placed on presentation of public sector management techniques and theories, and the human relations aspects of fire service administration. Specific areas that will be covered include: human relations, fire services and unit administration, personnel management, public relations, public finance and budgeting, public administration, legal aspects of fire protection, master planning, and labor relations. Students will be chosen using a priority selection process - chief of department, chief officers, acting chief officers, company officers, firefighters. The registration deadline is January 14, 2000 at 5 p.m. ♦

Curriculum Development Office:

John O'Donoghue, Program Coordinator

Each year, the Mass. Firefighting Academy's Curriculum Development Office schedules which programs to work on during the next fiscal year. The suggestions to develop new programs, or to revise existing ones, come to our office from any area in the Department of Fire Services. Firefighting Academy Director William Hollick approves the final schedule. Teams are organized, and time lines set, to assure a coordinated work schedule. The Development Specialists, Bob Colameta and

David Houghton assist in this process, and are integral to the success that this office has had in meeting an extremely demanding workload. It takes approximately two years for a program to reach the finish line. The first year is devoted to the development process, and the second year is used for the pilot presentation. Then a train-the-trainer class is run for the instructional staff that will be needed to support the program. A short ending period is used to fine tune it before it is handed off to the responsible coordinator.

At present, the following projects are being worked on actively:

Fast track

Recruit Program — review and implementation of IFSTA—4th edition.

Advanced Fire Investigations — using the NFA program, and adding Massachusetts's laws and procedures.

Wildland/Urban Interface — a joint teaching project utilizing instructors from both the Dept. of Fire Services and the Dept. of Environmental Management.

New Development

The following programs deal with totally new projects that will be developed during the fiscal year:

The EMS series — including Drowning/Near Drowning, Crush Injury Syndrome and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Gas Program — CNG Vehicle Awareness, Small Gas Container, and the Advanced Gas project, which will utilize the donated LNG transport vehicle.

Search for the Lost Person II — will provide a sequel to the successful Search I program.

Class "A" foam — will examine the use and differing aspects of class foam and its application on the fireground.

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Hazmat Lessons Learned

Charles W. Clark, District 3 Haz-Mat Technician

On October 28, 1999 the District 3 Haz-Mat team was called for a full response to the I-190@ 290 split in Worcester for a tanker truck leaking butyl acrylate. The tanker had been in an accident at the top of an on-ramp. The tractor and tanker were on their side and a small steady stream of product was leaking from around the caps and threads of the fill pipes. The tanker had a double walled tank and the outer shell was heavily damaged.

Upon arrival of the Haz-Mat team, the incident commander had already secured the scene with the help of the State Police. There were reps from DEP on site as well as a representative from Zecco. After an initial re-con of the vehicle and a review of the MSDS sheets regarding the product, it was determined that the best approach to the problem was to off load the product to another tanker.

After conferring with the Zecco rep, he stated that the off load process would be lengthy, due to the fact that the tank manufacturer stated that the tank would have to be raised perfectly level or there

was the possibility of fracturing the inner tank. If the inner tank fractured there would be a catastrophic release of approximately 7,000 gallons of product that would flow straight down the on-ramp.

As long as the inner tank was not breached the only real problem that we faced was fire related in the event of some type of an ignition. The decision was made that the Haz-Mat team would relocate above the tanker and set up a de-con operation and a Worcester Fire engine with an attack crew to effect a rescue in case of a release. The reason we set up above the tanker was to prevent rescue personnel from having to wade through the product to get to victims. A large berm of sand was laid across the road to stop a downhill flow of the product if there was a major release.

The lessons learned by our team at this incident were as follows: We were at the scene for 12 hours and logistics needed to be taken care of i.e., food, shelter, and toilet facilities. We also needed to establish a line of communication with the incident commander, as he was at least one-half mile from the Haz-Mat

team due to our relocation. This was accomplished by having a Haz-Mat team member with a portable programmed to the team channel stationed with the incident commander. A second portable with a Worcester firefighter was stationed on the uphill location with the Haz-Mat team leader. This arrangement provided a constant line of communication in the event that conditions changed on either side of the incident.

This particular incident required that the incident commander and the Haz-Mat team be a considerable distance apart. The use of a Haz-Mat team liaison and fire department liaison allowed for constant updates on the incident at both ends at all times. Although the local fire department and the team initially started the incident together, we did not end the incident together. In closing, there are no guarantees that you will be able to maintain a face-to-face staging area with the incident commander. The use of radio liaisons from both groups proved to be invaluable to the District 3 team operation at this incident. ♦

Development Office

Continued from previous page

Supervisory Skills for the Instructor — will concentrate on improving the delivery skills of Dept. of Fire Services instructors.

Program Improvement

The existing pool of training programs are examined for those needing updating or revision to the present standards.

Fire Instructor I — our most basic program for instructors will be updated.

Auto-x-SRS — will examine the many problems that the Supplemental Restraint Systems and new design technologies present to firefighters responding to auto accidents.

Hazmat Decon Procedures — will examine the existing IAFF program and improve it to meet present day standards.

Helicopter Use in Structural Firefighting — an update to the successful EMS/Helicopter program. This addition will focus on how an Incident Commander can utilize this resource for major incidents.

Rural Water Supply — the problem of moving large amounts of water over considerable distances, with utilization of our new tanker/pumper, will be addressed in the review of our existing program. ♦

New England Association of Fire Chiefs

78th Annual, Fire/Rescue/EMS Expo and Conference

The New England Association of Fire Chiefs will be holding their 78th Annual, Fire/Rescue/EMS Expo and Conference, June 24-26, 2000 at Eastern States Exposition, home of the "Big E", West Springfield, MA. There will be over 350 exhibits of equipment apparatus and ambulances on display with free admittance and free parking. For exhibit information, contact Ret. Chief Maurais at (781) 631-3086, for conference information, contact Ret. Chief Wehter at (781) 749-8626. ♦

Family Fire Safety Day at the MDC's Houghton's Pond

The 4th Annual Family Fire Safety Day on September 18th 1999 was another huge success. The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) provided a wonderful day of children's games and activities to promote the importance of fire safety awareness. Fire Departments from across the commonwealth sent apparatus and personnel to promote the importance of fire safety education. Crowds were estimated by some to exceed two thousand visited during the day.

Children and families had a chance to tour the Boston Fire Department's Fire Safety House, help Westwood Fire knock out the flames in the fire safety target, assist the MDC in the children's muster, meet members of the State Police Bomb Squad and Fire Investigation Unit, visit antique fire apparatus from all over the New England. The day could be measured in smiles and enthusiastic giggles of the children and some of the adults.

A new addition this year was a Jazz Band, which provided music for the entire day.

One of the day's highlights was the arrival of the Massachusetts Army

National Guard helicopters to provide a demonstration of how the fire service uses helicopters to fight fires. The newest member of this team, the Massachusetts Airwing was also on hand.

When interviewed attendees used words like neat and cool to describe their day. The project continues to



grow in popularity and just gets better each year. We look forward to seeing everybody at the 5th Annual Family Fire Safety Day on September 16, 2000. ♦



The New Liberty Jazz Band

SAFE Program FY '00 Grants

Two hundred and twenty-five (225) fire departments are participating in the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program this year. The Legislature funded the program for the fifth consecutive year. The Executive Office of Public Safety has determined the Fiscal Year 2000 S.A.F.E. Grant awards for fire departments and the Department of Fire Services has distributed contracts for signature. Once these contracts are signed and returned to the Fiscal Affairs Office, EFT transactions will be processed to the city or town

treasurer. Chiefs should begin calling to confirm that the treasurer received the funds within a week of submitting the signed contract. If no funds are received within a reasonable time, contact Sheri Auclair at 978-567-3138 who will check her records to determine if the funds were transferred.

Training

Another interesting and excited group of fire educators graduated from the week-long Public Fire and Life Safety Educator class held in Arlington the first week of November. The next

one will be held January 2-7, 2000 at the Mass. Firefighting Academy. The two-day Public Education Presentation class will be offered December 13-14, 1999 (Stow), March 18-19 (Northampton) and evenings of March 21 & 28 and April 4 & 11 (Groveland). The Public Fire Education Planning course for managers of community education programs will be held at Stow, February 7-8, 2000. ♦



Recent State Fire Marshal Advisories

September 24, 1999

Security Camera vs. Smoke Detector

Panasonic Video Imaging Systems Company is marketing a video camera that has an astounding resemblance to a smoke detector. A key marketing promotion is the unobtrusive smoke detector housing design. This action has created a great concern for us in the fire service. If this becomes widely known, (security cameras as smoke detectors) we feel that the lives of people will be placed in jeopardy. Out of fear of being watched and the loss of privacy, it is possible that people will begin to cover over smoke detectors, endangering their lives. This is of great concern in hotels, dormitories, or other types of housing units. This concern is compounded by the airing of several news stories relative to people be watched unbeknownst to themselves and then seeing or hearing about it later on the news or the Internet. If you have any questions please contact our office.

September 1, 1999

MGL 148 S 26A ½ Appeals Process

The Fire Safety Commission met on July 22, 1999 to discuss the appeals process of MGL 148 S 26A ½. This section of MGL requires the installation of automatic sprinklers throughout all buildings greater than 70 ft. in height and constructed prior to January 1, 1975. According to MGL 148, it is the responsibility of the head of the fire department to enforce this section of the law. The Fire Safety Commission has decided that only new appeals would be heard from this time forward; unless otherwise ordered by a court of law.

If the head of a fire department already has an order in place, an

appeal hearing has taken place and the owner of that location has not yet complied with the order, then the head of the fire department should take out a court complaint against the property owner. Further the Fire Safety Commission will strictly enforce the time limit for an appeal of an order in the future. The Fire Safety Commission will no longer entertain the option of an appeal hearing for a second time. In court the judge can determine the appropriate action to be taken against the property owner. The judge can order or extend the time frame for completion. Also, if the judge orders the Fire Safety Commission to hear the case as an appeal again, then and only then, the Fire Safety Commission will entertain a second appeal. This will be the only way that the Fire Safety Commission will hear a case for a second time. If you have further questions please contact the Code Compliance Office of the State Fire Marshal at 978-567-3300 or contact the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board at 978-567-3157.

October 6, 1999

Fire Apparatus That May Exceed Legal Weight or Length Restrictions for Motor Vehicles

The Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts in conjunction with the Department of Fire Services has been working with the Massachusetts Highway Department to address the problem of overweight and/or overlength fire apparatus.

Certain fire apparatus may exceed limits of MGL c. 90 s. 19A for operation on the roadways. I have attached a copy of the relevant portions of this law for your convenience.

The Massachusetts Highway Department intends on establishing a special

permitting process for such apparatus on a case by case basis. If you believe that your department has a piece of equipment that may exceed the subject weight or length restrictions, you should forward the following information to: Gordon A. Broz, P.E., Deputy Chief Engineer, Highway Operations, Massachusetts Highway Department, Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973:

- Vehicle location and description (Manufacturer, plans and specifications, if available)
- Vehicle registration number
- Overall dimensions
- Gross weight
- Number of axles
- Axle weights
- Axle spacing

If you need further information you may contact Mr. Broz at (617) 973-7740.

GENERAL LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS

Chapter 90: Section 19A. Weight limitations for certain motor vehicles, semitrailers, etc.; scales; penalties for violations. Any provisions of sections thirty and thirty A of chapter eighty-five to the contrary, notwithstanding a motor vehicle having two axles, which vehicle with its load weighs not more than forty-six thousand pounds, and a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, semitrailer unit or tandem unit having three or more axles, which unit or vehicle with its load weighs not more than eighty thousand pounds, may travel on a public way without a permit as required by sections thirty and thirty A of chapter eighty-five; provided, however, that no such motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, semitrailer unit or tandem unit, the weight on any axle of which, measured

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MFIRS CORNER

5 Fatal Cooking Fires Killed 6 Civilians in October, 1999

In October of this year, six civilians were killed in five fatal residential structure fires caused by cooking. Four of the six victims were over the age of 60. One of the victims had not had her first birthday yet.

Fall River 10/7/99
69-year old woman

Hull 10/10/99
61-year old man

Chelsea 10/14/99
68-year old man

Sharon 10/28/99
38-year old woman &
10-month girl

Westwood 10/29/99
92-year old woman

Fire departments may wish to focus on kitchen and cooking safety education, especially with all of the cooking during the winter holiday season.

Please note the following statistics from the 1998 Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System Annual Report.

1998 Cooking Fires

Cooking Caused 3,828 Fires, 10 Civilian Deaths, 130 Civilian Injuries

Unattended cooking, other unsafe cooking practices and defective cooking equipment caused 3,828 fires, ten civilian deaths, 130 civilian injuries, 35 firefighter injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$7.9 million. The average dollar loss per fire was \$2,070.

Ninety-four percent (94%) of the fires caused by cooking occurred in structures. The 3,828 fires included: 3,593 structure fires; 93 outdoor fires involving property of value; 40 outside spills or leaks with ensuing fires; 13 brush fires, seven explosions; five trash

fires; three motor vehicle fires; and 128 fires that could not be classified further.

Unattended Cooking Starts 57%

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of these fires were caused by unattended cooking; 5% were caused by combustibles left too close to the cooking equipment; 4% of the fires started because the cooking equipment was not properly cleaned or maintained; part failures, leaks or breaks caused 4% of the fires; 2% were caused by people falling asleep while cooking and 2% started when the equipment was accidentally turned on or not turned off. Human error was responsible for the majority of these fires. Fewer than 13% of these incidents were blamed on mechanical failures or installation deficiencies.

Cooking Was the Leading Cause of Injury in Fires in 1998

Cooking was the leading cause of injury in fires in 1998. This is not surprising considering that one-half of residential structure fires start in the kitchen. Of the 101 cooking fire injuries where gender is known, 46% of victims were female and 54% were male. Of the 90 victims where age is known, 2% of victims were under age 10; 1% of victims were between the ages of 10-15; 11% were 15-24; 18% were 25-34; 23% were 35-44; 19% were 45-54; 8% were 55-64; 3% were 65-74; 7% were 75-84 and 8% were over age 85. Seniors were at the greatest risk for cooking injuries, almost twice as likely to be burned.

38% of Victims in Room or Space of Fire Origin

Of the 98 cooking fire injuries where location at ignition is known, 23% were intimately involved with the ignition; 38% of victims were in the room or space of fire origin; 22% were on the same floor as origin of fire; 8% were in the same structure of

origin and 5% were on the property of fire origin at the time of ignition.

Over 1/2 of Cooking Injuries Occurred When Trying to Control Fire

Of the 71 cooking fire injuries for which activity at time of injury was known, 59% of victims were trying to control the fire; 10% were escaping; another 10% were sleeping; 8% were acting irrationally; 7% were unable to act; 4% were attempting a rescue and 1% were trying to cleanup or salvage something.

Almost 1/2 of Cooking Injuries were Burns

Of the 97 cooking fire injuries where nature of injury was known, 44% of victims suffered from burns; 39% suffered smoke inhalation or asphyxia; 10% burns and asphyxia; 2% complaints of pain and 4% wounds or bleeding.

Cooking Second Leading Cause of Deaths

Cooking was the second leading cause of fire deaths and fatal fires in 1998. Cooking fires caused 19% of structure fire deaths with ten fatalities and 15% of fatal structure fires with six incidents.

Cooking Safety

- Put a lid on a grease fire to smother it then turn off the heat. Baking soda will also work.
- Wear short or tightfitting sleeves when cooking. Loose sleeves easily catch fire.
- Never throw water on a grease fire. Water will only spread the fire around.
- Never move a burning pan. You can too easily ignite your clothes or spill the fire onto someone or something else.
- Stand by your pan! Never leave cooking unattended. ♦

Candle Types

There have been some questions about candle type on the Candle Fire Survey. Please use this for reference with the Candle Fire Survey to clarify the definitions of Candle Type.

Taper: 6 to 18 inch long candlestick, usually only a half inch in diameter, placed in a candle holder.

Votive: Originally produced as white (unscented) candles for religious ceremonies, now available in many colors and fragrances.

Pillar or Column: Thick in diameter. Also comes in mini-pillars that stand on their own. Some have more than one wick.

Container Candle ("Jar"): decorative and highly scented candles poured into various glass, tin and pottery pieces. ♦

not in compliance with the MFIRS law. Late data will not be included in the 1999 Annual Report of the State Fire Marshal and "Non-Reporting Communities" and "Fire Departments in Good Standing, No Reportable Fires" will be noted and differentiated in the Appendix of that report. ♦

Version 5 Update

Massachusetts will once again differ from the federal system of incident reporting due to several fields which are mandatorily collected by statute, such as insurance information. These changes in the record layout make it necessary for Massachusetts to create it's own record layout for v5 MFIRS. This is the reason that no vendors have been Massachusetts

certified in v5. The Fire Data Unit is currently designing the new record layout of v5 which will then be distributed to vendors. The vendors will then revise their software to be Massachusetts certified. A list of these v5 certified vendors will appear in this publication as well as on the OSFM website. Please remember that we will not be going to v5 MFIRS until January of 2001.

Training in v5

In hopes of training Massachusetts fire departments in an orderly and timely fashion, we have scheduled the following trainings beginning in September 2000. Pre-registration through the MFA is mandatory. Applications can be obtained by calling Laura Almeda at (978) 567-3200. The majority of trainings will be at the Stow facility but two will be in western Mass and one on the Cape.

1999 MFIRS Data Due January 31, 2000

The deadline for submission of Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System data to be included in the 1999 Annual Report will be January 31, 2000. Feedback reports of data submitted by your fire department to MFIRS will be sent out in January. If your department has not yet reported any fire incidents to MFIRS, expect to receive a "Certification of No-Fires" in place of the feedback reports. If your department has not had any reportable fires, simply sign and date the form, certifying that your department is in compliance with MGL Chapter 148 section 2. If your department has had fires but not yet reported them, please call Amy Uzdavinis at (978) 567-3382 as soon as possible to arrange for late data submission. It is important to remember that you cannot receive S.A.F.E. grant money if your fire department is

Day	Date	Location	Room	Time
Wednesday	9/6	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Saturday	9/9	Stow	Classroom 109	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Wednesday	9/13	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Saturday	9/16	Stow	Auditorium	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Wednesday	9/20	Springfield		6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Wednesday	9/27	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Friday	9/29	Stow	Auditorium	12:00 pm-4:00 pm
Wednesday	10/4	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Friday	10/6	Stow	Auditorium	12:00 pm-4:00 pm
Saturday	10/7	Stow	Auditorium	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Wednesday	10/11	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Friday	10/13	Stow	Auditorium	12:00 pm-4:00 pm
Wednesday	10/18	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Saturday	10/21	Stow	Auditorium	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Wednesday	10/25	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Wednesday	11/1	Springfield		6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Saturday	11/4	Stow	Auditorium	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Wednesday	11/8	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Wednesday	11/15	Stow	Auditorium	6:30 pm-10:30 pm
Saturday	11/18	Stow	Auditorium	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Saturday	12/9*	Cape Cod	COMM facility	9:00 am-1:00 pm

*this date has not yet been confirmed

Please call Amy Marie Uzdavinis at (978)567-3382 with further questions. ♦

Sprinkler Systems

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provide a copy of this report to the building owner. A summary of the inspection and frequency can be found in Table 2-1 of NFPA 25. Major items that should be inspected are: control valves, alarm devices, piping, hangers and sprinkler heads. Major items that should be tested are: alarm devices and main drains – this should be completed at least quarterly. Major items that should be maintained are: obstruction investigation (every five years or as required by NFPA 25,) and control valves. Again, refer to NFPA 25 for a specific list of items and frequencies.

Standpipes and Hose Systems

For a responding fire department, it is important that the standpipe connections work, especially in high-rises. In Table 3-1 of NFPA 25 there is a list of inspection, testing and maintenance work that should be completed on various components. Major items are: control valves and pressure-regulating devices. These should be inspected monthly and quarterly, respectively. Tests on the pressure control valve and the pressure reducing valve, and hydrostatic and flow tests should be conducted every five years. Maintenance should be completed annually on the control valves and hose connections. Again refer to NFPA 25 for a specific list.

Private Fire Service Main

In the event of a fire, arriving engine companies will need to establish water supplies. Table 4-2.1 of NFPA 25 has a list of inspection, testing, and maintenance activities that will help to ensure a more reliable water supply when using hydrants on privately owned properties. Hydrants, monitor nozzles, and piping should be examined annually and after each use. Monitor nozzles, and hydrants should be flowed annually. Of course, be aware of water restrictions when completing flow tests. Strainers, hydrants and

monitor nozzles should have maintenance completed annually. Again, refer to NFPA 25 for specific lists and testing procedures.

Fire Pumps

A fire pump can be a critical portion of an automatic sprinkler system or standpipe system. A fire pump must be maintained in order to help ensure its proper operation. Diesel and electric pumps require a different inspection, testing and maintenance scheme. Refer to Table 5-1.1 in NFPA 25 for a specific list of requirements. Major items are: inspecting the pump house (room), heating and ventilating equipment, and the fire pump system. These inspections should be completed weekly. Fire pump operation should be checked weekly for a “no-flow condition”. This refers to starting the fire pump weekly and allowing it the proper run time. Annually a fire performance test should be completed to compare the operation of the pump to the actual performance curve. Maintenance varies greatly between the diesel and electric pumps. Refer to NFPA 25 for specific guidelines.

Water Storage Tanks

Many fire protection systems will require water storage tanks. This is especially true in more rural locations where there are high hazard facilities. Where this occurs it is important to ensure the tank is inspected, tested and maintained properly. Table 6-1.1 in NFPA 25 has a list of inspection, testing and maintenance requirements. The heating system is an important item to check regularly and the water level and temperature should be examined weekly. During warmer months only the water level needs to be examined weekly. Monthly inspections should be made of the exterior structure and attachments. An interior inspection should be completed every five years (be sure to follow safety guidelines for this area) and check valves should be inspected every five

years. Tests should be completed every month of the temperature alarms and high temperature limit switches. These are a concern during the colder months. Semi-annually the water level alarms should be checked. Level indicators and pressure gauges should be tested every five years. The frequency of the maintenance will vary on various components. Again, refer to NFPA 25 for the specific list.

If you have any questions please contact the Code Compliance and Engineering Division of the Office of the State Fire Marshal at 978-567-3300. ♦

Fire Marshal Advisories

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at the ground, exceeds twenty-two thousand four hundred pounds, or, in the case of axles spaced less than six feet apart, eighteen thousand pounds, shall so travel without such a permit; and provided, further, that such motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, semitrailer unit or tandem unit may not travel on a public way without such a permit if the overall gross weight on a group of two or more consecutive axles thereof exceeds the gross weight produced by application of the following formula:

$$W=500(LN/(N-1)+12N+36)$$

where W=overall gross weight on any group of two or more consecutive axles to the nearest 500 pounds, L=distance in feet between the extreme of any group of two or more consecutive axles, and N=number of axles in group under consideration except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of 34,000 pounds, each providing the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more; provided, that such overall gross weight may not exceed eighty thousand pounds. ♦

FIRE INVESTIGATION NEWS

New Bomb Squad Supervisor

As of November 1, 1999, Sgt. Charles S. Hanko has assumed the duties of supervisor of the Hazardous Devices Unit, also known as the "bomb squad." Sgt. Hanko has been with the State Police for over 14 years and offers a wide variety of experiences to the Hazardous Devices Unit. Some of his assignments have been executive protection work for the secretary of public safety as well as commanding the State House barracks.

New Executive Officer

Also starting November 1, 1999, Sgt. Steven L. Viola has assumed the duties of executive officer for the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section. Sgt. Viola has been with the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section for three years. During his tenure here, Sgt. Viola has been the supervisor for the Code Enforcement Unit, operations officer for the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section, and the North Team supervisor. Sgt. Viola offers a wide variety of expertise as the executive officer for the section. ♦

Tough Situation for 1st Responders

On Sunday, October 3, 1999, a very tragic event in the Town of Westford challenged emergency personnel from both Westford and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. An incident involving a teenager and explosive devices forced responding emergency personnel to make the very difficult, but correct decision to follow proper protocol and wait for trained Hazardous Device Technicians to arrive before rendering emergency medical care to the victim. Upon arrival on the scene, first responders

discovered a severely injured youth, close to death, in the front seat of the vehicle. They also observed evidence of an additional device in the vehicle with red and black wires protruding from the front seat. As a result of previous training from the "bomb squad," first responders were able to recognize this hazard and address their own safety issues first. Upon arrival of bomb squad personnel, an emergency procedure was executed to extricate the victim from the vehicle. The scene was secured and the device rendered safe. Though the decision to wait for the bomb squad was extremely difficult, Westford Fire, Police and EMS should be commended. Their quick thinking to follow proper protocol prevented any further injuries from occurring. ♦

New Explosives Detection Canines

The Hazardous Devices Unit has recently acquired three new canines, which will be trained as Explosives Detection Canines by the Connecticut State Police in late winter. Once trained, these canines will join the two currently assigned to cover the state.

The canines and their handlers are:

- Tpr. Tim Murray and K-9 Howell
- Tpr. Eric Gahagan and K-9 Jackie
- Tpr. William Qualls and K-9 M.C.

New Accelerant Detection Canine

The Fire & Explosion Investigation Section welcomes its newest Accelerant Detection Canine to the Unit. Tpr. Timothy Bombard of the Central Team and K-9 Cedar were recently trained by the Connecticut State Police and certified by the ATF. ♦

Severe Weather Cancellation

Severe Weather Cancellation Line 978-567-3248

Classes scheduled to be held at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow are cancelled if classes at **Lincoln-Sudbury High School** are **cancelled**. During periods when Lincoln-Sudbury High School is not in session, (i.e. school vacations) cancellation notification is the same as for off-site classes (see below). If Lincoln-Sudbury High School has a **delayed opening** due to severe weather, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy classes at headquarters will begin at the regularly scheduled time (no delay).

Off-Site Courses – Cancellations for all off-site courses will be announced on the following TV/radio stations:

Station Freq. Location

WBEC AM – 1420, FM – 105.5
Pittsfield

WHYN AM – 560, FM – 93.1
Springfield

WRKO AM – 680 Boston

WCVB-TV Channel 5 Boston

WHDH AM – 850 Boston

WHDH-TV Channel 7 Boston

If the Academy must cancel a program for any other reason, every attempt will be made to notify all PRE-REGISTERED students. ♦

NEWS FROM CPSC

The following items are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed.

Recall of Portable Heaters

October 21, 1999 Release # 00-009

In cooperation with the U.S. CPSC, Holmes Products Corp., of Milford, Mass., is recalling about 45,000 heaters. The thermostats in some of these heaters are improperly positioned, which can cause them to overheat, posing a fire hazard.



Holmes Products has received 11 reports of these units overheating and catching fire. Six of these incidents resulted in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

These “Wide-Angle,” portable heaters, manufactured in 1998, are approximately 12 inches high, and are in the shape of a half-circle. The front is white, and the back is gray. The units have two knobs on the top. The date code, which includes the number 98, is located on the back, right-hand corner of the units just above the box containing the Underwriter’s Laboratories (UL) logo. Other writing inside the UL box includes, “MODEL: HFH-297” and “MADE IN CHINA.” “Holmes(r)” also is written in the UL box and on the front of the unit.

Mass merchandise stores, such as Kmart and Target, sold these heaters

from September 1998 through July 1999 for about \$27.

Recall of Dishwashers

October 18, 1999 Release # 00-006

In cooperation with the CPSC, General Electric (GE) Appliances, of Louisville, Ky., is voluntarily recalling about 3.1 million GE and Hotpoint brand dishwashers, manufactured between April 1983 and January 1989. The dishwashers have a slide switch that allows consumers to choose between heat drying and energy saver functions.

Over time, the slide switch can melt and ignite, presenting a fire hazard.

GE and CPSC have reports of 50 fires, seven of which spread beyond the dishwashers. In three cases, the structure of the house or

apartment was damaged. No injuries have been reported.

The GE and Hotpoint dishwashers that are being recalled are model GSD500D, GSD500G, GSD540, HDA467, HDA477 or HDA487 with a serial number that has a second letter of A, M, R, S, T, V or Z (for example, BM12345). The model and serial numbers are located on a rectangular label that is on either the right or left front edge of the inner tub. The GE or Hotpoint brand name is on the front of the dishwasher.

Consumers should stop using the recalled dishwashers immediately. Keep the dishwasher door unlatched to prevent the flow of electric current from the latch to the slide switch. GE is offering consumers a rebate toward the purchase of a new dishwasher.

Contact GE at (800) 599-2929 anytime or www.geappliancerecall.com for information on how to participate in the rebate program.

Recall of Halloween Pumpkin Tealight Candles Sold at Bath & Body Works

October 13, 1999 Release # 00-004

The CPSC and Universal Candle Co., of China are voluntarily recalling about 21,000 Halloween pumpkin tealight candles sold at Bath & Body Works. The candles can burn with a high flame, presenting fire and burn hazards to consumers.

A Bath & Body Works store received one report of a candle generating a high flame. No injuries have been reported.

The recalled tealight candle has an orange pumpkin face, with yellow eyes, nose and mouth and a green stem. Purple outlines the features on the pumpkin face. The wick is placed above the pumpkin’s nose. The candle is contained in an aluminum base. A label on the base of the candle reads in part, “Specially made in China for Bath & Body Works.” Bath & Body Works stores nationwide sold the candles throughout September 1999 for about \$1.

Recall of Cigarette Lighters

October 14, 1999 Release # 00-005

The CPSC and Shine International Trading Co. Inc., of Flushing, N.Y., are recalling about 2.4 million cigarette lighters. The lighters child-resistant mechanisms fail to meet the requirements of the Consumer Product Safety Act. Young children could ignite the lighters, presenting fire and burn hazards. Additionally, the lighters can leak fuel and remain on after

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NEWS FROM CPSC

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consumers have used them, which also presents fire and burn hazards.

CPSC and Shine International Trading Co. Inc. have received three incident reports with these lighters. One incident involved two lighters that continued to burn after the consumer put them down, one involved two lighters that spontaneously blew apart while unattended, and one involved a lighter that burst into flames resulting in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.



The lighters being recalled are non-refillable, oval-tube-shaped, with a transparent solid-colored (red, green, yellow, orange or purple) plastic body and a metal top. The lighters measure about 3.25 inches high and 1 inch wide. "SHINE" is imprinted into the metal top of the lighter. There is a warning label on the lighter. "SHINE" and "MADE IN CHINA" are written on the label. The lighters operate with a roll and press type of ignition mechanism to produce a flame.

Small stores and souvenir shops nationwide sold these lighters from August 1998 through July 1999 for about \$1.

Recall of York International Corporation Diamond 80 Furnaces

October 12, 1999 Release # 00-003

The CPSC and York International Corp., of York, Pa., are recalling about 21,000 York International Corporation Diamond 80 downflow mid-efficiency furnaces with model numbers starting with P2DP, PBKD, and XED02. Because of inadequate gluing, the insulation surrounding the heat exchanger can separate from the cabinet

wall of the furnace, and fall onto the heat exchanger. This could cause surrounding combustible material and drywall to catch on fire, which has the potential to cause burn injuries and deaths.

York began this recall in late 1997. However, only about 9,000 of the recalled furnaces have been repaired to date.

York International and CPSC are aware of 11 incidents involving this furnace, including five fires causing \$74,000 in property damage. York and CPSC wish to reinforce the seriousness of the situation and continue efforts to promote increased participation. York is offering its distributors a \$25 bounty for each furnace they locate.

These furnaces were sold under the brand names York, Fraser-Johnston, Luxaire and Moncrief. The furnaces were sold with the model numbers P2DP, PBKD and XED02, and with serial number beginning with EECM through EGEM. The model number and serial number can be found on a label inside the furnace cabinet.

York dealers sold these furnaces nationwide from May 1994 through July 1996 for about \$680. Consumers should contact their local York dealer immediately to schedule a free repair visit.

Tennessee Man Pleads Guilty in Cigarette Lighter Case

Investigation Targets Removal of Child-Resistant Mechanisms

November 1, 1999 Release #00-012

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced today that a 51-year-old Memphis, Tenn., man has pled guilty to making a false statement to a CPSC investigator. Donald M. Anthony, a former distributor of cigarette lighters, admitted that he lied to a CPSC investigator to

conceal his sale of non-child-resistant lighters. Mr. Anthony pled guilty to one felony count and faces a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000. The guilty plea resolves an indictment announced in July.

Anthony operated National Marketing, a now-defunct Memphis business that distributed cigarette lighters to convenience stores and other distributors nationwide. Anthony pled guilty to making false statements about whether National Marketing was removing the child-resistant mechanisms from lighters and then reselling them. Sentencing is scheduled for January 21, 2000.

"This case shows that the CPSC aggressively enforces our safety standards and pursues companies that undermine our investigations," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "The cigarette lighter standard prevents fires and saves lives - especially the lives of children."

Before cigarette lighters were required to be child-resistant, an average of 150 persons were killed and nearly 1,100 injured each year as a result of residential fires started by children younger than 5 who were playing with lighters. Average annual property damage from such fires totaled almost \$70 million.

The CPSC has launched investigations across the country in the past two years to recall lighters that do not meet federal standards and to prosecute companies and individuals that disable the child-resistant mechanisms. In May, CPSC announced an injunction against two California retail chains, Cigarettes Cheaper and the Customer Company, for selling lighters with disabled child-resistant mechanisms. CPSC is seeking civil penalties from the retailers and three of its corporate officers, as well as from an Arkansas distributor, American Buyers, and its corporate officer.

The U.S. Department of Justice's

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CPSC News

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Office of Consumer Litigation is representing the Commission in federal court.

The following product safety recalls were conducted by firms in cooperation with the CPSC.

CPSC, Firms Recall Cigarette Lighters

November 1, 1999 Release # 00-010

PRODUCT: Cigarette Lighters - Penda New York Inc., of New York, N.Y., is recalling about 22,300 novelty and disposable cigarette lighters. The novelty lighters are plastic and shaped as a "BMW" toy car with flashing lights and keychain, a "Coke" soda bottle, a "Budweiser" beer can with flashing lights, a fire extinguisher, and a telephone pager with flashing lights belt clip. The disposable lighters are silver-colored metal and are relatively flat, measuring 2.75 inches long, 1 inch wide and .25 inch thick. A "MADE IN CHINA" label is on each lighter. Small stores and souvenir shops in the New York and Miami areas sold the lighters from January 1999 through July 1999 for about \$5. U.S. Customs alerted CPSC to this product hazard.

PROBLEM: The lighters do not have any child-resistant mechanisms, as required by federal law. Young children could ignite the lighters, presenting fire and burn hazards.

INCIDENTS/INJURIES: None reported.

WHAT TO DO: Stop using these lighters immediately and return them to the store where purchased for a full refund. For more information, call Penda New York Inc. collect at (212) 889-6740 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

Recall of Flammable Spray String

September 2, 1999 Release # 99-167

Three firms, Stelex Enterprises Inc., of Los Angeles, Calif.; Major Import, of Whittier, Calif.; and LeSa Yang Family Ltd. of Diamond Bar, Calif., are recalling about 912,000 cans of spray string sold under the names "Crazy Ribbon" and "Crazy String." These spray strings' propellant is extremely flammable, creating a serious risk of burn injuries when sprayed near an open flame, such as birthday candles. Flammable products intended for use by children are banned by federal law.

CPSC is aware of at least one report of a burn injury resulting from the use of these spray strings. An 11-year-old boy suffered serious burns during his birthday party that left permanent scars.

Crazy Ribbon sprays strings of various colors, and comes in a round metal spray can about 6.5 inches high. The can is silver with a plastic cap that matches the color of the spray string. Depictions of various colored streamers cover the can. Writing on the can includes "CRAZY RIBBON" in multicolored block letters, "FOR PARTY CELEBRATION AND DECORATION," and "MADE IN TAIWAN."

Crazy String also sprays strings of various colors, and comes in a round metal spray can about 6.5 inches high. The can is silver with a plastic cap that matches the color of the spray string. Depictions of various colored streamers cover the can. Writing on the can includes "CRAZY STRING," "FOR PARTY CELEBRATION AND DECORATION," and "MADE IN TAIWAN."

Party and hobby stores nationwide sold the spray string from October 1996 through July 1999 for between \$2 and \$4.

Recall of Water Distillers

September 7, 1999 Release # 99-170

The West Bend Co., of West Bend, Wis., is recalling about 16,000 model

W10120 water distillers used to purify water. These distillers can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

West Bend has received three reports of these distillers overheating and catching fire. There have been no reports of injuries.

The oval-shaped distillers purify water, are made of white plastic, and have a clear, blue collection jug. The housing looks similar to a large automatic coffeemaker. They were sold under various trademarks which are printed on the front of the distillers. These trademarks include Millennium, Mountain Stream, Pure Logic, Sci Can, WaterWise, TIC, Usana, Table Charm, Roex and West Bend. A label on the bottom of the unit has the model number, W10120, and a date code from 9722 to 9848 in black print. Labels with red or gold print are not part of the recall.

Direct selling dealers and door-to-door sales representatives nationwide sold these recalled distillers from May 1998 through August 1999 for about \$500.

Firms Recall Toy Flashlights and Work Lights

September 22, 1999 Release # 99-172

PRODUCT: Toy flashlights - Sonca Products Ltd., of Hong Kong, is voluntarily recalling about 5,500 toy flashlights. The flashlight came with Playmobil's Coastal Search and Rescue Boats toy set (item 3063), which included a rescue boat, rescue raft, diver, and captain among other diving equipment. The toy set is not part of the recall, only the flashlight. The flashlights are made of blue rubber, measure about 6.25 inches long, and have a black cord attached. The flashlight operates with two "AA" batteries. The word "PLAYMOBIL" is on the side of the flashlight. Independent toy stores nationwide sold the toy set containing

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the recalled flashlight from July 1999 to September 1999 for about \$40.

PROBLEM: The spring in the flashlight's battery compartment can dislodge, causing the batteries to overheat or leak. Children can suffer burns from the leaking battery.

INCIDENTS/INJURIES: Sonca has received four reports from Europe of batteries overheating or leaking. There have been two reports of minor property damage and two minor injuries, including eye irritation and skin burns.

WHAT TO DO: Consumers should take the flashlight away from children immediately. Consumers should call Sonca at (800) 669-6394 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday for instructions on returning the flashlight for a \$5 refund. Consumers also can access the company's web site at www.sonca.com.

PRODUCT: Work Lights - New Buffalo Corp., of Chesterfield Mo., is recalling about 2,800 Buffalo Fluorescent Work Lights. They are a 16-inch fluorescent tube light with wire hanger for use in awkward locations. These Buffalo Fluorescent Work Lights have model number PL-16 written on the packaging. The light fixture is about 19.5 inches long, and has yellow plastic caps on each end. It has a yellow cord and two "S" hook hangers. A red insert sold in the plastic tube of the light reads, "INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF MODEL 15D" and "Featuring new push-button starter." In addition, the light's packaging reads, "BUFFALO," "Stays Cool," "Glare Free," "New Buffalo Corporation" and "MADE IN TAIWAN." Hardware and auto supply stores sold the lights nationwide between March 1996 and December 1998 for about \$13.

PROBLEM: These lights can have undersized wiring and exposed electrical parts on the plug, posing a shock and fire hazard.

INCIDENTS/INJURIES: None.

WHAT TO DO: Consumers should immediately stop using these Buffalo work lights, and return them to the firm for a full refund plus postage. For more information, consumers should call New Buffalo Corp. at (800) 568-6657 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday.

Recall of Engines on Outdoor Power Equipment

September 30, 1999 Release # 99-177

Tecumseh Products Co., of Grafton, Wis., is voluntarily recalling about 118,000 engines equipped with a fuel shut-off valve on various brands of outdoor power equipment. Fuel can leak from a small hole in the engine's fuel line, presenting fire and explosion hazards to consumers.

Tecumseh Products Co. has received two reports of fuel lines leaking. No injuries have been reported.

The Tecumseh engines with fuel shut-off valves that are being recalled have D.O.M. numbers from 9121 through 9233. The D.O.M. number is located on the engine's label. The Tecumseh name is found on the engine and on the engine's label. These engines are primarily on snow blowers. Augers and post hole diggers, log splitters, shredders, irrigators and ventilating fans also have been equipped with these engines.

Power Equipment Brand Name

Snow Blowers

Ariens, Frigidaire, Garden Way, MTD, Murray, Simplicity, Snapper, Toro

Augers and Post Hole Diggers
Ardisam General Equip. Co.

Log Splitters
Brave

Shredders
Garden Way

Irrigators
Wade

Ventilating Fans
Super Vacuum, Tempest Technology

Mass merchandise stores nationwide sold power equipment with the recalled engines from June 1999 to September 1999 for about \$800 to \$2,000. The products were also sold through authorized factory dealerships.

Recall of Extension Cords and Reels

November 4, 1999 Release #00-013

PRODUCT: Extension Cords - Fairlong International of Addison, Ill., is recalling more than 149,600 household extension cords. The recalled cords are made of white or brown plastic, measure 6 or 9 feet long and have 3 receptacles. A plastic safety cover is imprinted with caution statements, which include "Avoid Hazards, Keep Children Away, Unplug When Not In Use, Rated 125-Volts, For Indoor Use Only." The cords are marked with the following information, "SPT-2, 18AWGX2C, VW-1, 60 C." The cords were sold in blue and yellow cardboard wrappers. The cords are made in China. Wholesale and discount stores in the Chicago area, and a few stores in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio, sold the cords from July 1997 through October 1999 for about \$1 to \$2.

PROBLEM: The cords have undersized wires, incorrect ratings, lack overcurrent protection and allow polarize plugs to be incorrectly inserted into the receptacles. These cords present fire, shock and electrocution hazards to consumers.

INCIDENTS/INJURIES: None reported.

WHAT TO DO: Consumers should stop using the recalled cords immedi-

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ately and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. Consumers also can return the cords directly to the company for a refund, plus the cost of postage. For instructions, consumers should call Fairlong at (800) 577-8197 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

PRODUCT: Extension Cord Reels - Woods Industries, Inc., of Carmel, Ind., is recalling about 1,000 model 28003 ACDelco extension cord reels. The round extension cord reels are made of metal, are red, and contain a black 30-foot retractable extension cord. They have "ACDelco" printed in black letters on the case. A label on the back of the cord reel has catalog number "28003." Next to that label is another clear label with a date code of "Y MY" or "Y JE," meaning it was manufactured in May or June 1999. On the bottom of the extension cord reel, where the mounting ring is attached, there is a silver-colored stud with no markings on the flat head of the stud. If the flat head of the stud has a red, blue, or green colored marking, the cord reel has already been inspected and is not part of this recall. If the extension cord reel's box has a green dot or a "100% good" stamp near the UPC code, it is not part of the recall. The cord reels were sold at Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse stores nationwide from July 1999 through September 1999 for about \$35.

PROBLEM: The housing of the extension cord reels could become energized, resulting in electrical shock or electrocution.

INCIDENTS/INJURIES: None reported.

WHAT TO DO: Unplug the cord reels immediately and stop using them. Woods Industries is offering

consumers either a refund or a free replacement extension cord reel. To get a refund, consumers should return their reels to any Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse. To get instructions on obtaining a free replacement reel or for more information about this recall, consumers should call Woods Industries at (800) 224-1118 anytime.

Second Recall of Electrical Testers

November 9, 1999 Release # 00-014

Fluke Corp., of Everett, Wash., is voluntarily recalling about 58,000 model T-2 hand-held electrical voltage and continuity testers. The batteries in the tester could fail to maintain proper contact due to corrosion within the battery compartment, causing the device to lose power. Consumers testing electrical sources could fail to be warned of the presence of live current if the tester is not powered, posing a risk of shock, electrocution, and thermal burns.

Fluke conducted a previous recall in November 1998 on T2 Electrical Testers because of a different electrical connection problem.

Even if consumers had their testers repaired previously, their testers are part of this new recall and need to be repaired again.

Fluke is aware of two incidents involving these testers where consumers received a mild electric shock.

These testers measure 24 to 600 volts alternating current (VAC), and 6 to 220 volts direct current (VDC). "Fluke" and "T2" are written on the front of the unit. The tester body is yellow and black, and measures about 6.25 inches long by 1.75 inches wide and 1.25 inches thick. The wire leads are black and have one black and one red probe. Recalled units have a serial number lower than 74165430. The serial number is located on the back of

the unit above the wire leads.

Home centers, hardware stores and industrial distributors nationwide sold these testers between December 1997 and September 1999 for about \$45.

Consumers should stop using these voltage and continuity tester immediately, and contact Fluke to obtain a free repair kit or arrange to send your unit to Fluke for repair. For information on returning your unit to Fluke or obtaining a repair kit, consumer should call Fluke toll-free at (800) 753-8646 between 5 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday. Consumers can access Fluke's web site at www.fluke.com/whatsnew/ProductNotices/notices_99-10-01.asp.

Recall of Aquarium Lights

November 9, 1999 Release # 00-015

Perfecto Manufacturing Inc., of Noblesville, Ind., is voluntarily recalling about 23,400 SHOLights aquarium lights. Sharp edges on these lights could cut the insulation on the wiring. If the wires become exposed, consumers could suffer shocks or electrocution. There is also a risk of fire. In addition, some of these lights could overheat and cause the same problems.

CPSC and Perfecto are not aware of any incidents involving these aquarium lights. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

The plastic body of the SHOLights are black or oak-colored, and are 24, 30, 36 or 48 inches in length. All 36-inch SHOLights that hold two bulbs, and all SHOLights lights manufactured in July 1999 or earlier are part of this recall. The manufacturing date is located on a white label on the metal reflector. The label shows a picture of an anchor, and reads "cleaned by" or "built by" followed by the date. If there is no label or the label can't be read, it should be considered part of the recall.

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Pet stores nationwide sold these lights from August 1998 through July 1999 for a suggested retail price of between \$125 to \$175.

CPSC Urges Seasonal Furnace Inspection,

Replacement of Recalled Vent Pipes to Prevent CO Poisonings

September 23, 1999 Release # 99-174

As the home heating season approaches, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges consumers to have a professional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances — including furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers and space heaters — to detect deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks.

These appliances burn fuels — typically gas, both natural and liquefied petroleum; kerosene; oil; coal; and wood. Under certain conditions, these appliances can produce deadly CO, but with proper installation and maintenance, are safe to use.

CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death.

“CO poisoning associated with using fuel-burning appliances kills more than 200 people each year and sends more than 10,000 to hospital emergency rooms for treatment,” said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown.

CPSC recommends that the yearly, professional inspection include checking chimneys, flues and vents for leakage and blockage by creosote and debris. Leakage through cracks or holes could cause black stains on the outside of the chimney or flue. These

stains can mean that pollutants are leaking into the house. Also, have all vents to furnaces, water heaters, boilers and other fuel-burning appliances checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

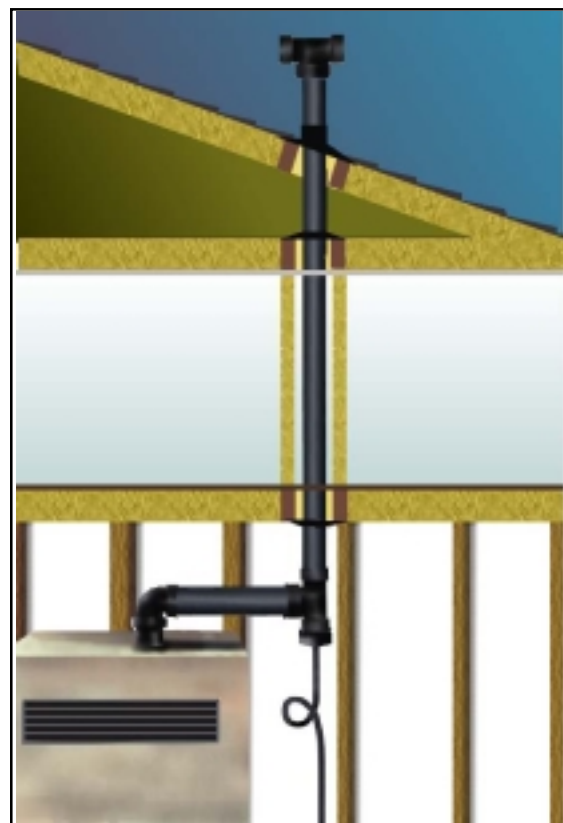
Make sure your appliances are inspected for adequate ventilation. A supply of fresh air is important to help carry pollutants up the chimney, stovepipe or flue, and is necessary for the complete combustion of any fuel. Never block ventilation air openings.

CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO alarm that meets the requirements of the most recent Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 2034 standard or International Approval Services 6-96 standard. CPSC recently completed work with UL to improve the CO alarm standard to improve the reliability of alarms, and reduce the potential for nuisance alarming.

Recall Program to Replace Vent Pipes

Consumers should also have the vent pipes on their heating systems inspected. In 1998, virtually the entire furnace and boiler industry together with the manufacturers of high-temperature plastic vent (HTPV) pipes joined with CPSC to announce a vent pipe corrective action program. The program’s purpose is to replace, free of charge, an estimated 250,000 HTPV pipe systems attached to gas or propane furnaces or boilers in consumers’ homes. The HTPV pipes could crack or separate at the joints and leak CO.

Consumers can check the vent pipes attached to their natural gas or propane furnaces or boilers to determine if they are part of this recall. They can be identified as follows: the vent pipes are plastic; the vent pipes are colored



gray or black; and the vent pipes have the names “Plexvent®,” “Plexvent®II” or “Ultravent®” stamped on the vent pipe or printed on stickers placed on pieces used to connect the vent pipes together. Consumers should also check the location of these vent pipes. For furnaces, only HTPV systems that have vent pipes that go through the side-walls of structures (horizontal systems) are subject to this program. For boilers, all HTPV systems are subject to this program. Other plastic vent pipes, such as white PVC or CPVC, are not involved in this program.

After checking the vent pipes, consumers should call the Corrective Action Program toll-free at (800) 758-3688, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. ET, seven days a week, to verify that their appliance venting systems are subject to this program. Consumers with eligible systems will receive new, professionally installed venting systems free of charge. Additionally, consumers who already have replaced their HTPV pipe systems may be eligible for reimbursement for some or all of the replacement costs.◆

National Fire Academy's VIP 2000

The National Fire Academy has set the programming for the Volunteer Incentive Program for the year 2000. There will be 32 course offerings. Brochures have been sent to all departments.

The Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) is an intensive six-day educational opportunity designed specifically for the call/volunteer fire officer. The academy has compressed two weeks worth of course work into six days, tailored to the special needs of the call/volunteer fire officer. VIP courses have recommended college accreditation through the American Council on Education.

Students have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and information with colleagues from across the country in an informal setting outside the classroom. This program insures a

totally successful learning experience while keeping the time commitment to a minimum.

Eligibility

Fire and rescue officers within call/volunteer departments, or those individuals who are the only career person in a call/volunteer department who meet the established student selection criteria for the course are eligible to apply to the VIP.

Cost

Each student will receive a stipend to cover the cost of round trip coach air fare or actual mileage equal to air fare from point of departure. Lodging, student materials, books, and ground transportation from/to airports in Washington, D.C. are provided by the academy. The student pays a meal

charge of \$15 per day at the academy cafeteria.

Course Menu

- R801 Fire Command Operations (FCO)
- R802 Fire Service Planning Concepts for the 21st Century (FSPCC)
- R811 Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers (FCDCO)
- R810 Leadership and Administration (LA)
- R816 Community Education Leadership (CEL)
- R815 Challenges for Local Training Officers (CLTO)
- R814 Hazardous Materials Incident Management (HMIM)
- R817 Emergency Response to Terrorism: Incident Management (ERT:IM)

CPSC Warns that Smoke Detectors in About 16 Million Homes Do Not Work

October 29, 1999 Release # 00-011

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, October 31, so most of the country will gain an hour when we turn our clocks back. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) suggests consumers spend part of this extra time testing to ensure that their smoke detectors work properly.

Fire is the second leading cause of unintentional death in the home. Each year, more than 3,700 people die in residential fires, and there are more than 400,000 residential fires serious enough to be reported to fire departments.

About 90 percent of U.S. households have smoke detectors installed. However, a CPSC survey found that the smoke detectors in 20 percent of those households — about 16 million — were not working, mostly because the battery was dead or missing.

"Smoke detectors can save lives, but they won't work if they are not maintained," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "They should be tested monthly, and the batteries should be replaced at least once a year or when they make a 'chirping' sound."

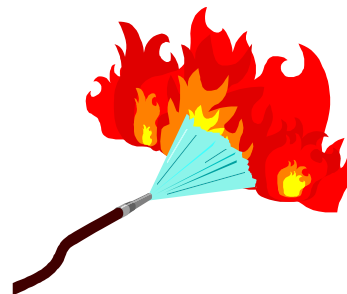
Long-life smoke detectors with 10-year batteries have been available to consumers since 1995. These long-life detectors also should be tested monthly.

CPSC recommends consumers place a smoke detector that meets the requirements of Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) standard outside their bedrooms and on each level of multi-story homes. CPSC has worked to strengthen smoke detector performance and installation requirements. ♦

Application Process

All applications must be forwarded through the State Fire Training Director for signatory processing. Course descriptions, schedules and related VIP program information may be viewed on the U.S. Fire Administration's web page at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>.

Applications are available through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy by contacting Everett G. Pierce, Programs Manager, at 978-567-3210 or by e-mail at: Everett.Pierce@state.ma.us. ♦



Who Rescues the Rescuer?

We do! Firefighting is a dynamic and rewarding yet dangerous profession. Fire departments train and pre-plan, but things can and do go wrong. This is where Firefighter Assistance Search Teams or Rapid Intervention Crews are utilized. You may wonder how do you train firefighters to function as part of these teams. The answer lies in identifying what skills are needed to operate as part of these teams.

Firefighters need a thorough understanding of size-up, strategies and tactics. A course in building construction will give the firefighters an understanding of possible fire spread and construction. This allows the team to anticipate where the fire is and where the fire is going. Construction concepts will allow insight on how the

building was built. The team can then decide what tools will be needed to gain access to a trapped firefighter.

Firefighters need to have the knowledge and skills in the following areas: SCBA-emergency procedures, forcible entry, and search & rescue. Advanced training can only be built after strong basic skills have been established.

Firefighters must also have a working knowledge of the Incident Command System. The members of the RIC team need to know how a fireground operates, whom they should report to and how accountability is being accomplished at the incident.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offers the following courses to help assist with training to *rescue the rescuer*:

Advanced SCBA
Building Construction
Field Programs
Firefighter Skills Group
Fireground Company Operations
Impact Series
Incident Command System
National Fire Academy
Non-combustible / Fire Resistive Construction
Rapid Intervention Crew
Structural Fire Fighting Practices
Search & Rescue
Wood / Ordinary Construction ♦

1999 Fire & Safety Public Education Conference

Brockton's Capt. Gorman Named 5th Annual Educator of the Year

The 1999 Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference was held September 30, 1999 to October 1, 1999 in Westford. It was the perfect event to launch over 200 fire and life safety educators into Fire Prevention Week which started October 3. Public Secretary Jane Perlov was able to address the participants, and to present the 5th Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award to Capt. Lawrence P. Gorman of Brockton.

The two days provided substantive workshops on teaching specific fire and life safety skills to a variety of target audiences as well as workshops on presentation, teaching, classroom management and coalition building skills.

OEMS Credits for EMTs Who Attended

Chief Bernie Forgea of Cummington was able to negotiate OEMS credits

for EMTs who attended the conference. The attendance roster was sent to the Office of Emergency Medical Services and those on the roster who are EMTs will be receiving seven credit

hours for the first day and six credit hours for the second. This should set us up for being able to offer them at next year's conference as well. ♦



l to r: Easton Firefighters David Beals and Lawrence Blye, Fire Marshal Coan, Brockton Fire Chief Galligan, Capt. Lawrence P. Gorman, Public Safety Secretary Jane Perlov, Holliston Lt. Michael Cassidy, Mary Almon, U/Mass Exstion Educator, Yarmouth Capt. Peter Raisio.

DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp

The 1999 DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp was held July 20-23, 1999. A total of 113 "campers" ages 10-14 from 59 fire departments participated. This year we took summer camp "on the road" and with the support of the West Springfield Fire Department held it on the grounds of the "Big E" for the four westernmost counties. The surveys indicated the youngsters really enjoyed themselves. Quizzing them also let the adults know the children had also learned important fire safety information.

Sponsor Thank You

This year we added a segment on what hazardous materials technicians do. Dep. Bill Ashton of Leominster was the architect of this idea. He developed a giant board with different connections that the youngsters attempted to manipulate with different wrenches and other tools wearing heavy rubber gloves, bump hats and safety glasses. Deputy Ashton also helped to facilitate the donation of the gloves, safety glasses and bump hats to the Department of Fire Services as well as put us in contact with a local McDonald's franchise who donated most of the food for the week-long camp. We would like to say thank you to McDonald's for helping us feed



Sal Napoli and Frank Morse of McDonald's, State Fire Marshal Steve Coan and Leominster Fire Chief Ron Cormier



Matt Studtner and Terry McGovern of B.F. Goodrich with Marshal Coan and Chief

the hungry horde, to B.F. Goodrich and Liberty F & S for supporting the HazMat segment, as well as the FAIR Plan for the T-shirts and Polaroid for the buttons and film for the scavenger hunt.

Dates for 2000 DFS Summer Fire Safety Camp: July 19-22

The dates for next year's summer camp are July 19-22, 2000. The DFS would like to see a greater number of fire departments send campers this year than last. Last year was the first year we took camp on the road and went to western Mass.

Next year we are thinking about taking it on the road to Cape Cod as well. If you have other ideas on how we can offer this interesting, fun and educational

experience to more youngsters, we would like hear them. If your department did not participate last year, two youngsters from your town missed out on a really great experience. You might have missed the chance to mold a future mayor or state representative. Let us know what the roadblock to participating was so we can remove it. ♦



Pater Matatese of Liberty F & S, with Coan and Cormier

Senior Fire Safety

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan is pleased to launch a major initiative on fire safety for older adults this fiscal year. Our Public Education Unit has been working with the National Fire Protection Association's Center for High Risk Outreach, the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association (also known as the FAIR Plan), the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors to develop some resources and creative ideas to foster local partnerships around this issue. Older adults are a group that face a high risk of being injured or killed in a fire. Whether a fire department already reaches out to this high risk group in their community education program or is interested in starting one, this statewide effort will provide some fresh ideas and resources for local programs through a series of joint, regional workshops.

FAIR Plan Ensures Free Copy to Each Mass. Fire Department

The FAIR Plan has underwritten the cost of producing the NFPA's new *Remembering When: A Fall and Fire Prevention Program for Older Adults* for each Massachusetts fire department. The NFPA is distributing 5,000 free copies nationwide. This gift guarantees a free copy for each Massachusetts fire department. The Department of Fire Services grateful to the FAIR Plan's president John Golembeski for his continued support for the Massachusetts fire service.

The *Remembering When* program actually contains tools for three different types of programs for older adults. One is information and materials for a group presentation such as speaking at a senior center. The second is for training home visitors such as visiting nurses or home health aids to incorporate fall and fire prevention messages when they are in a senior's home. The third

is a smoke alarm project that can be designed to involve any number of community agencies.

To Be Distributed at Regional, Joint Trainings

The Public Education Unit is planning to distribute these programs to local fire departments at several regularly scheduled training sessions of the Mass. Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors. The goal is to form local partnerships around senior fire safety. Through these local partnerships, fire departments may find they can implement new or improve existing senior fire safety education. We encourage fire departments to call their senior center director or the chair of their local council on aging and perhaps ride together to one of these regional workshops. Please call the Public Education Hotline at 1-877-9NO-FIRE (1-877-966-3473) to RSVP for a particular training session so we'll have a headcount for programs and refreshments..

The schedule is as follows:

February 25, 2000 at the MCOA Statewide Quarterly Meeting (Firm date)

Workshop from 11-12:30 after their general meeting

Radisson Inn, Milford

(Tentative Dates and Locations)

North Shore

Mid-March, 2000

North Shore Community College



l to r: Jennifer Mieth, DFS; Merri-K Appy, NFPA; Stephen Coan, DFS; John Golembeski, FAIR Plan; Sharon Gamache, NFPA; Ron Meehan, FAIR Plan

Southeastern Regional Conference

April, 2000

Taunton Holiday Inn

Western Mass (Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties)

Monday, April 26, 2000

Worcester County and Metrowest Area

April, 28, 2000

Holiday Inn, Lincoln Street, Worcester

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community.

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

BREATHE-TEX Moisture Barrier Alert and Recall

This is a message from the FEMA's US Fire Administration.

The manufacturer of BREATHE-TEX® moisture barriers used in firefighters' protective clothing has alerted protective clothing manufacturers using their product that this product is degrading in the field. The manufacturer, Aldan Engineered Coated Fabrics, states that the moisture barrier should be replaced if evidence of such breakdown has occurred.

The following is the text of the letter sent to manufacturers from Aldan Engineered Coated Fabrics:

Fire Service Letter for Manufacturers

We are writing to inform you that some of our BREATHE-TEX moisture barriers used in firefighters'

turnout garments are showing signs of degradation. The degradation, not readily observable by routine visual inspection, is primarily in the form of film cracking. A degraded moisture barrier film will allow the passage of liquids, thereby reducing the level of protection in proportion to the degree of degradation.

Our investigations suggest that the garments may have been subject to attack possibly resulting from storage conditions, length of service, care, and/or maintenance. We have striven to determine the cause of the degradation, but have not been able to replicate the condition. We are of course continuing to investigate the cause/s of this issue and will keep you fully informed of our progress.

For any of your customers currently using a BREATHE-TEX moisture

barrier, we recommend advising them of a potential problem and to have their gear checked. Where there is evidence that breakdown has occurred, we recommend the moisture barrier be replaced.

We regret any problems caused by this unforeseen condition.

Sincerely,

Edwin T. Winter
Chairman, CEO

For more information, please see the International Association of Fire Fighters web site at www.iaff.org ♦



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